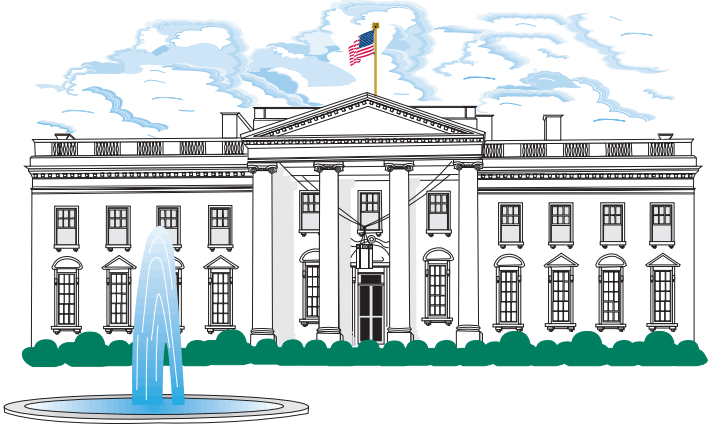


The Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) is offered by the Office of the Manager, National Communications System (OMNCS), to meet national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) requirements for the use of public, defense, or Federal telephone networks by Federal, state, and local government and other authorized users. Developed in response to White House tasking, GETS provides emergency access and specialized processing in local and long-distance telephone networks. GETS access is through a simple dialing plan and personal identification number (PIN).



THE GETS CONCEPT: INTELLIGENTLY USING COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Economic pressures and technological advances have made telephone services increasingly more vulnerable to disruption by natural or man-made disasters. Recent events have shown that fires, power failures, fiber cable cuts, and software problems can cripple the telephone services of entire regions. Congestion in the public switched network (PSN), such as the well-documented “Mother’s Day” phenomenon, can also prevent circuits from being accessed. GETS is designed and maintained in a constant state of readiness to make maximum use of all available telephone resources should outages occur during an emergency, crisis, or war.

GETS uses three types of networks:

- ★ The major long-distance networks provided by the interexchange carriers (IXCs) - AT&T, MCI WorldCom, and Sprint - including their international services.
- ★ The local networks provided by the local exchange carriers (LECs) such as the Regional Bell Operating Companies and Independent Telephone Companies, and wireless providers, such as cellular carriers and personal communications services (PCS).
- ★ Government-leased networks, including the Federal Technology Service (FTS), Defense Information System Network (DISN), and Diplomatic Telecommunications Service (DTS).

GETS is accessed through a universal access number (1-710-NCS-GETS) using common telephone equipment such as a standard desk set, STU-III, facsimile (FAX), MODEM, or cellular telephone. A prompt will direct the entry of your PIN and the desired telephone number. Once you have been authenticated as a valid user, your call is identified as an NS/EP call and receives special treatment such as enhanced routing and priority treatment.



How GETS Works:
CALL COMPLETION EVEN IN DAMAGED OR CONGESTED NETWORKS

The tremendous growth in the telecommunications industry has enabled Government users to expand services at reduced costs, which, in turn, has increased our reliance on the telephone. But this growth has been accompanied by an increased vulnerability to a variety of problems. Economic viability and technical feasibility have combined to produce such advances as nationwide fiber optic networks, high-speed digital switching, and intelligent network features. Although backup systems are in place, the loss of a single fiber optic cable or the failure of a computer program can disrupt thousands of telephone customers for hours or days. GETS provides a cost-effective means to overcome network outages through the following key features:

ACCESS CONTROL THROUGH PINs

GETS has been designed to ensure that only authorized users access the service through the distribution, use, and control of PINs. The GETS user will be provided with a unique PIN that must be used to access the service. After the universal access number has been dialed, the GETS user will be prompted to enter a PIN and destination number.

If the PIN is valid, the call will be processed. If the PIN is not valid (for example, if it was entered incorrectly), the caller will be prompted to reenter the PIN. If the PIN, after three attempts, is still determined to be invalid, the call will be discontinued.

If the access control system fails, the call will be processed and allowed to complete. PINs can be deactivated for fraud or abuse.

DIALING PLAN

The dialing plan is based on the 710 area code that is reserved for NS/EP use. This area code is valid in the IXCs, LECs, wireless carriers, and foreign carriers. The normal process mode is through your presubscribed long-distance carrier by dialing the universal access number. If this is not successful, alternative long-distance carriers can be accessed by first dialing 1010288 for AT&T, 1010222 for MCI WorldCom, or 1010333 for Sprint, followed by the universal access number. Means of accessing GETS through the FTS, DISN, or DTS are also available.

ENHANCED ROUTING

LEC, wireless, and foreign carriers will route 710 calls to one of the three IXCs. The IXCs have implemented enhanced routing services. In the LECs, access is being enhanced by Alternate Carrier Routing (ACR), which automatically tries all three GETS IXCs.

PRIORITY TREATMENT

GETS traffic receives priority treatment over normal traffic through:



- ★ High probability of completion (HPC) capability to provide:

- NS/EP identification.
- Priority signaling.

HPC is a method for identifying NS/EP calls. The identifier is carried across the networks within the signaling system and is used to trigger priority features for each call.

- ★ Trunk queuing, trunk subgrouping, or trunk reservation.
- ★ Exemption from restrictive network management controls. This feature allows GETS calls to proceed while other calls are blocked to reduce network congestion.

These features increase the probability of call completion in congested networks. GETS will not preempt public traffic, nor are there levels of precedence in GETS.

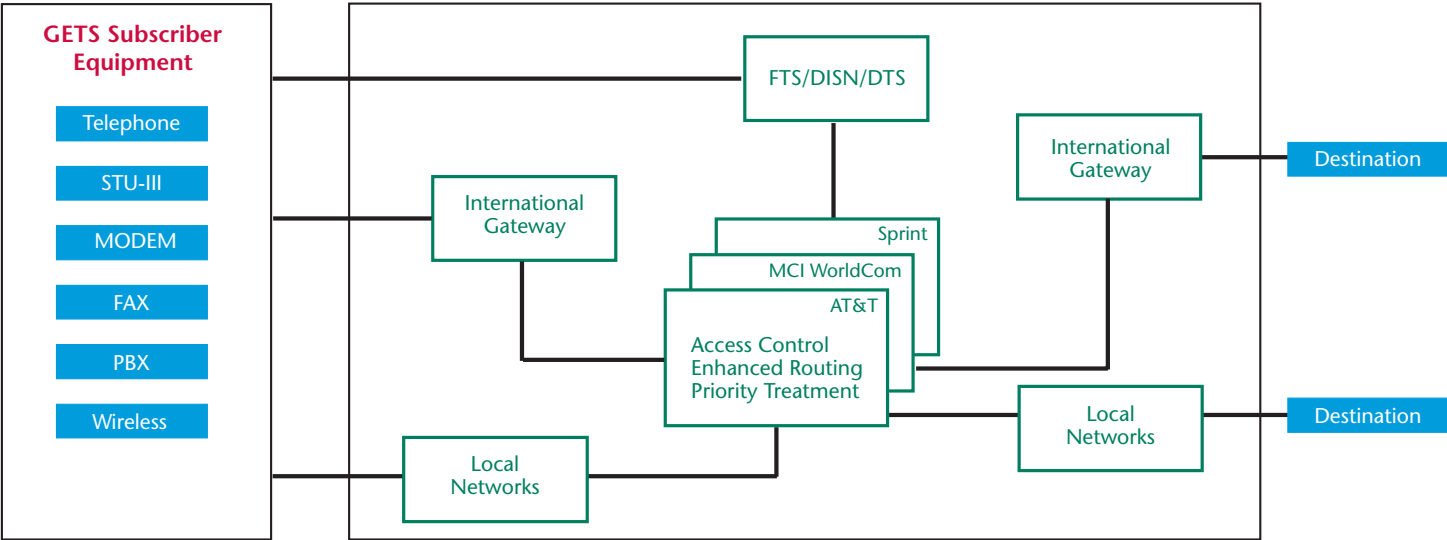
SIGNALING

The normal signaling provided by the LECs, IXCs, wireless carriers, and foreign carriers will be used for 710 traffic. This includes inband and common channel signaling.

INTERNATIONAL CALLING

GETS can be used to place or receive international calls. GETS routes the call to the appropriate international gateway switch for

GETS ARCHITECTURE



subsequent call completion to the destination country. For GETS calls that are originated overseas and destined for the United States, the foreign carrier assigns the call to the appropriate IXC in accordance with existing arrangements. After the call has reached the gateway switch in the United States, it is routed to access control for PIN validation and then to the destination number.

INTEROPERABILITY WITH OTHER NETWORKS

GETS can be accessed through DISN, FTS, and DTS by first accessing these circuits (e.g., dialing “8”) then entering the universal access number. The DISN, FTS, or DTS switch will automatically route the call to GETS. This direct access around potential PSN problems using the facilities of the FTS, DISN, or DTS is an important method of avoiding congestion.

ACCESS THROUGH “NUMBER TRANSLATION” CALLS

GETS provides called telephone number translations for users who require this type of service.

OTHER OMNCS PROGRAMS

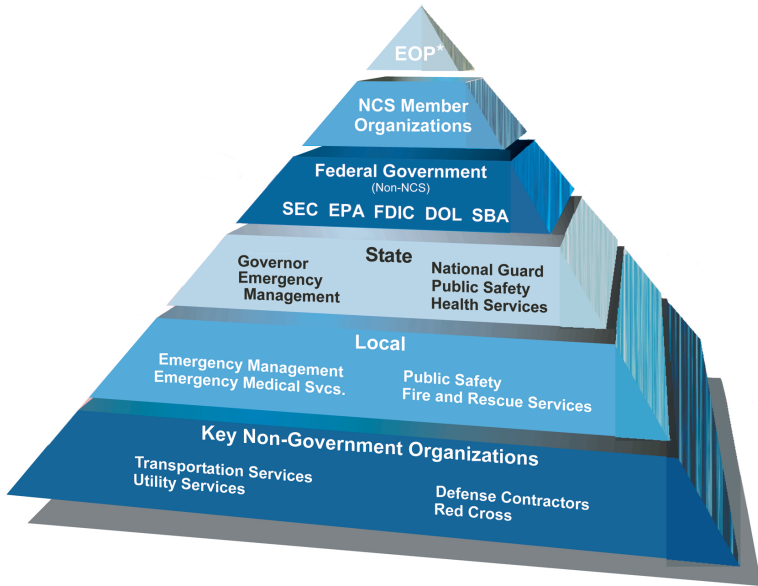
- ★ National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications (NCC) provides a capability for coordinating the reconstitution of the telecommunication resources of the nation.
- ★ Shared Resources (SHARES) combines existing high frequency radio assets from Federal, state, and industrial organizations into a single emergency message handling network, supporting NS/EP operations.
- ★ Priority Access Service (PAS) will allow qualified NS/EP users to obtain priority access on the wireless networks during emergency situations.
- ★ Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) provides for priority installation and restoration of NS/EP telecommunication services.

PRINCIPAL GETS SUPPORTED FUNCTIONS

- ★ Presidential Communications
- ★ Continuity of Government/Operations (COG/COOP)
- ★ International Interface for Diplomatic and Defense Telecommunications
- ★ Agency Essential Emergency Functions
- ★ National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications (NCC)
- ★ State Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)
- ★ Disaster Response and Recovery

Using GETS:
How Do You Become A Subscriber?

If you belong to an NCS Member Organization and you have requirements for emergency telephone services, contact your organization’s GETS Point of Contact or the GETS Program Management Office for further information on becoming a subscriber. Non-NCS Federal organizations, state and local governments, and non-governmental subscribers must be sponsored by an NCS member organization or the OMNCS.



(*EOP: Executive Office of the President)

NCS Member Organizations

- | | |
|---|--|
| ★ Department of State | ★ Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| ★ Department of the Treasury | ★ Joint Staff |
| ★ Department of Defense | ★ General Services Administration |
| ★ Department of Justice | ★ National Aeronautics and Space Administration |
| ★ Department of the Interior | ★ Nuclear Regulatory Commission |
| ★ United States Department of Agriculture | ★ National Telecommunications and Information Administration |
| ★ Department of Commerce | ★ National Security Agency |
| ★ Department of Health and Human Services | ★ United States Postal Service |
| ★ Department of Transportation | ★ Federal Reserve Board |
| ★ Department of Energy | ★ Federal Communications Commission |
| ★ Department of Veterans Affairs | |
| ★ Central Intelligence Agency | |

GETS IS A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF READINESS.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

GETS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE



OFFICE OF THE MANAGER
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
701 SOUTH COURT HOUSE RD.
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2198

(703) 607-6118 (Customer Support)

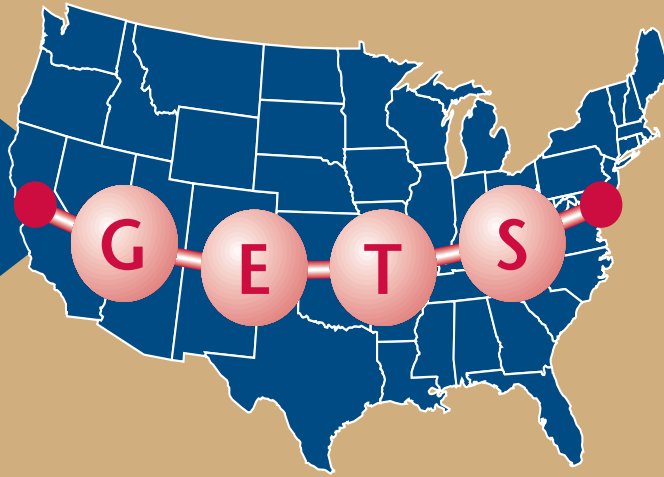
(703) 607-4800 (Technical)

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gets@ncs.gov

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“WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, GETS KEEPS YOU GOING.”



GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE MANAGER, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM